

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 26 2007

-2-

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A filling apparatus ~~for a flexible pouch~~, for introducing a liquid into a flexible pouch connected to a refilling infuser having an air inlet, the filling apparatus comprising:

~~an attaching means for the flexible pouch adapted to position upwards~~
5 ~~a distal end of the filling infuser,~~

a supporting means for a supply container containing the liquid for introduction, said supporting means being adapted for positioning said supply container in a position in which the liquid flows out by gravity when said supply container is connected with the filling infuser,

10 an air compressing means,

a connecting means that connects the compressing means and the air inlet of the filling infuser, and

an attaching means for the flexible pouch adapted to position upwards
a distal end of the filling infuser including an attachment bore having an
15 approximately complimentary shape to a proximal part of the infuser.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The filling apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the attaching means includes a transverse vertical opening extending between the attachment bore and the exterior, the transverse vertical opening being adapted to permit the passage of the filling infuser as it is put in place
5 in the attaching bore by insertion along an approximately horizontal direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the attaching means includes a transverse horizontal slot extending between the attachment bore and the exterior, said transverse horizontal slot being adapted to

-3-

permit the passage of lateral support arms when the filling infuser is put in place in the attaching bore by insertion along a substantially horizontal direction.

6. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supporting means includes a supporting bore of a shape approximately complimentary to the end of the supply container fitting a cap.

7. (Previously Presented) The refilling apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the supporting bore has a cylindrical shape.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The A filling apparatus according to claim 7,~~
wherein for introducing a liquid into a flexible pouch connected to a refilling infuser
having an air inlet, the filling apparatus comprising:

an attaching means for the flexible pouch adapted to position upwards
5 a distal end of the filling infuser, the attaching means including an attaching bore.

a supporting means for a supply container containing the liquid for
introduction, said supporting means being adapted for positioning said supply
container in a position in which the liquid flows out by gravity when said supply
container is connected with the filling infuser, the supporting means includes
10 including a transverse vertical slot extending between the supporting bore and the
exterior, said transverse vertical slot being adapted to permit the passage of the distal
end of the filling infuser when the filling infuser is put in place in the attachment bore,
by insertion along an approximately horizontal direction;

an air compressing means,
15 a connecting means that connects the compressing means and the air
inlet of the filling infuser.

9. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the transverse vertical slot and the transverse horizontal opening are in direct communication with each other.

-4-

10. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compressing means includes a manually compressible squeeze bulb.

11. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compressing means includes a flexible bladder compressible by a pivotal pedal.

12. (Previously Presented) The filling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connecting means includes a tube connecting the compressing means to a fitting adapted to cooperatively fit together with the air inlet of the filling infuser.

13. (Currently Amended) A filling system for flexible pouches, including: at least two filling apparatuses according to including claim 1.

14. (New) The filling apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the supporting means includes a transverse vertical slot extending between the supporting bore and the exterior, said transverse vertical slot being adapted to permit the passage of the distal end of the filling infuser when the filling infuser is put in place in the attachment bore, by insertion along an approximately horizontal direction.

5